

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 20577 220833Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SCS-06 VO-05

PPT-01 CA-01 AID-05 H-01 /060 W

-----028779 220843Z /15

P 211042Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7954

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

JCRC BARBERS POINT HI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20577

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, CPAS, CASC, VN

SUBJ: COURTESY CALL ON SRV DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

REF STATE 182871

1. AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF (ANTIPPAS) CONTACTED SRV EMBASSY AND SECURED IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT FOR A CALL ON VU HOANG, SRV CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIRECTOR. CALL WAS MADE ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 20 IN PRESENCE OF NGUYEN CANH TAN, SRV CONSUL AND FIRST SECRETARY IN BANGKOK PLUS THE DELEGATION'S INTERPRETER, NGUYEN NGOC TRUONG. SESSION WAS AMICABLE AND OF HALF HOUR'S DURATION.

2. ANTIPPAS INDICATED THAT HE WAS MAKING THE CALL TO AFFIRM EMBASSY BANGKOK'S WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN THE MATTER OF FUTURE FAMILY REUNION CASES. AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL ANTIPPAS ALSO REQUESTED A COPY OF THE SRV APPLICATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THOSE WHO WISH TO
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APPLY FOR PERMISSION WOULD BE SENT TO THE SRV EMBASSY

AND THAT IT WOULD BE PASSED DIRECTLY TO EITHER ANTIPPAS OR JCRC LIAISON REP, LTC MATHER.

3. VU HOANG ASKED IF THERE WAS YET A REPORT ON SIEVERT'S MEETING WITH THE LEAGUE OF MIA FAMILIES IN SAN

FRANCISCO. ANTIPPAS REPORTED IN THE NEGATIVE.

4. ANTIPPAS NOTED THAT A DELEGATION OF SENIOR PRIVATE AMERICANS ORGANIZED BY SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD BE VISITING VIETNAM SHORTLY AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING A GROUP OF AMERICAN CITIZEN CHILDREN AND MOTHERS UPON THEIR RETURN TO BANGKOK.

5. ANTIPPAS INDICATED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN THE CASES OF THOSE WITH CLAIMS TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP AS WELL AS THOSE WHO COULD QUALIFY AS IMMIGRANTS WOULD PROBABLY DOCUMENT THOSE WHO CAME OUT AND THAT THE EMBASSY'S STAFF WAS AVAILABLE AT SHORT NOTICE TO FULFILL THOSE FUNCTIONS. VU HOANG ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE RAPID ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR THE DELEGATION THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE DIRECTOR INDICATED THAT A DELEGATION OF PROFESSORS WOULD ALSO BE VISITING THE U.S. HE SMILINGLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN BANGKOK DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS.

6. WHEN ASKED IF THE VISIT TO THE CIL WAS FRUITFUL, VU HOANG RESPONDED THAT HE SAW IT AS ANOTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS OF FULL COOPERATION. HE SAID THAT THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AVAILABLE AT CIL WOULD BE VALUABLE IN ASSISTING THE SEARCH FOR BODIES. VU HOANG SPOKE VERY WARMLY OF THE COURTESIES SHOWN BY SIEVERTS, EA/VLC
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DIRECTOR BROWN AS WELL AS THE STAFF OF THE CIL. COMMENT: VU HOANG WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE HAD BEEN SHOWN. ANTIPPAS TOOK THE OCCASION TO COMMENT ON THE EMBASSY'S OWN RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE STAFF OF THE CIL WHEN AFTER THE CRASH OF AN AIR EGYPT 707 ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1976, A FORENSIC TEAM LED BY DOCTOR FURUE HAD SUCCESSFULLY IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF BADLY BURNED BODIES INCLUDING TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS. VU HOANG, WHO APPARENTLY UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH THOUGH HE USES AN INTERPRETER, PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO A DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED AND RESOLVED BY THE CIL TEAM AT THAT TIME. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN THE LONG PERIOD OF TIME THAT THESE CASES HAVE BEEN PENDING, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY TELEGRAM UPDATED LIST OF FIFTEEN CHILDREN AND MOTHERS IN ORDER THAT WE MAY REVIEW OUR FILES. WE PREFER TO DO THIS IN ADVANCE OF RED CROSS REP'S ARRIVAL. EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO ISSUE PASSPORTS/IVS ON CRASH BASIS.

8. MEMCON WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY POUCH. O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO20577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-1065
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780735/aaaabdj.m.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1afa146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 182871
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1931493
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COURTESY CALL ON SRV DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, CPAS, CASC, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1afa146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014